United Nations E/C.20/2012/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2012

Original: English

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
Second session
New York, 13-15 August 2012
Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rules of procedure

At its first session in October 2011, the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management adopted its provisional rules of procedure, as contained in document E/C.20/2011/3.[1] The provisional rules were subsequently reviewed by the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, with a view to bringing them into line with the rules and general practices of the Economic and Social Council. The Office of Legal Affairs made a number of recommendations to improve and clarify the language, which have been incorporated into the revised rules of procedure[1] presented before the Committee.

The rules are structured in 10 sections containing 43 rules. The sections address issues relating to definitions, membership and composition of the Committee, officers, the secretariat, conduct of business, voting, official and working languages, sound recording, public and private meetings, observers and amendments.

With respect to membership, the rules stipulate that the Committee shall comprise experts from all Member States in the interrelated fields of surveying, geography, cartography and mapping, remote sensing, land/sea and geographic information systems and environmental protection. The experts shall be designated by the Governments of the Member States. Each Member State participating in a session of the Committee shall be represented by a head of delegation and other such accredited representatives, alternate representatives, experts and advisers as required. The head of delegation shall be a full member of the Committee, with voting rights; the other accredited representatives, alternate representatives, experts and advisers may participate, without the right to vote, in the discussions at meetings of the Committee.

* E/C.20/2012/1.
[1] Available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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The section on observers allows for and clarifies the participation in the work of the Committee of non-Member States, specialized agencies, inter-governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

The Committee is invited to adopt the revised rules of procedure as a basis for its work.

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Strategic consideration of future trends in geospatial information management: five- to ten-year vision

Future trends in geospatial information management

Report of the Secretary-General

The present paper is a summary of the report of the working group established to consider technological and substantive advances in geospatial and interrelated information infrastructures and to provide a strategic vision to address emerging trends over the next 5 to 10 years.[1] The report describes the process by which the working group was formed and the mechanism of deliberation. A background paper entitled "Future trends in geospatial information management: five- to ten-year vision" provides a detailed analysis of the main themes and trends identified by the working group. The seven broad themes are as follows:

(a) Future direction of data creation, maintenance and management;

(b) Uses of geospatial data;

(c) Trends in technology (including future delivery mechanisms for geospatial data);

(d) Legal and policy developments;

(e) Skills requirements and training mechanisms;

(f) Future role of national geospatial information authorities;

(g) Role of the private and voluntary sectors.

The report aims to provide important technical background to guide the future work programme of the Committee of Experts and invites the Committee to express its views and to discuss the future trends in geospatial information management and their relevance to the work programme of the Committee.

* E/C.20/2012/1.

[1] The full report is available in the language of submission only from http://ggim.un.org/ggim_committee.html.

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